

REMARKS

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Fletcher for indicating that claims 48-61 are free of the prior art.

Double Patenting

Applicants respectfully request that the provisional rejection of the pending claims under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over the claims of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/440,022 ('022) be withdrawn [MPEP 804(I)(B)(1)]. It is respectfully noted that independent claim 50 of the '022 application includes the claim element "where the surface comprises a polymer", which is not present in the claims of the present application. Thus, the present application should be allowed to issue without a terminal disclaimer.

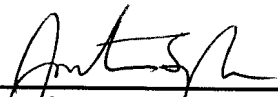
CONCLUSION

All of the grounds raised in the present Office Action for rejecting the application are believed to be overcome or rendered moot based on the remarks above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently presented claims are in form for allowance, and such action is requested. Should the Examiner feel a discussion would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at (312) 876-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

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